

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174001

EXDIS - EYES ONLY FOR MAYNES, YOUNG AND VAN DEN HEUVEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO

SUBJECT: ILO - EGYPTIAN OFFER

REF: CAIRO 12182

1. GOE PROPOSAL REPRESENTS TOTAL REVERSAL ITS ACTIONS PRIOR TO AND AT 63RD ILC, WHICH RAISES CREDIBILITY PROBLEM. IF OFFER TO HELP IS GENUINE, GOE PRESUMABLY WILL DO SOMETHING TO IMPLEMENT IT. WE WOULD THEN INCLUDE RESULTS IN US ASSESSMENT REFORM EFFORTS.
 2. AMRE MOUSSA ACKNOWLEDGES MAJOR PROBLEM WITH HIS OWN PROPOSAL IN PARA 4 REFTTEL WHEN HE ADMITS THAT ACTIONS OF WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE (WPS) BETWEEN NOW AND NOV. 6, 1977 WOULD BE MEANINGLESS UNTIL AFFIRMED AND ADOPTED BY JUNE 1978 CONFERENCE. IF US WERE TO AGREE TO WORK WITH EGYPTIANS
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IN WPS CONTEXT AND SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS WERE MADE BETWEEN NOW AND NOV. 6, 1977, US WOULD NEVERTHELESS HAVE TO EITHER (A) LET WITHDRAWAL TAKE EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 6 AND CONSIDER REJOINING IF JUNE 1978 CONFERENCE AFFIRMED AND CONTINUED SUCH PROGRESS OR (B) CANCEL LETTER OF INTENT, TAKING CHANCE THAT JUNE 1978 CONFERENCE WOULD REAFFIRM PROGRESS MADE IN WPS, AND IF IT DID NOT, EITHER ISSUE ANOTHER LETTER OF IN-

TENT (TO TAKE EFFECT IN 1980) OR TAKE OUR LUMPS AND GO ON REGARDLESS.

3. ASIDE FROM THE DIFFICULTIES OF PERSUADING US WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS TO STAY IN UNDER THE FOREGOING CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE ARE TWO ADDITIONAL FACTORS WHICH CREATE OBSTACLES:

A) LOGISTICS: THE GOVERNING BODY AUTHORIZES MEETINGS OF WPS AND HAS CONVENED SESSION FOR OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 4, AS RESULT OF GB DECISION IN JUNE TO HOLD WPS MEETINGS IN CLOSE CONJUNCTION WITH GB SESSIONS TO SAVE COST AND INCONVENIENCE. WHILE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE OFFICERS OF GB RESCHEDULE WPS FOR EARLIER DATE, LOGISTICS OF GETTING WPS SIZEABLE TRIPARTITE GROUP TOGETHER WOULD REQUIRE MAJOR EFFORT BY ILO SECRETARIAT (WHICH NO DOUBT WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE THIS MEETING). DOCUMENTS NEED TO BE PREPARED, AGENDAS DISTRIBUTED, ETC.

B) POLITICS: WE ARE DOUBTFUL OF ROLE EGYPT WOULD PLAY IN MAKING WPS ACCEPT ARTICLE 17, GIVEN FACT THAT EGYPT SPEARHEADED OPPOSITION TO US ON THIS ISSUE THROUGHOUT JUNE CONFERENCE DESPITE VISIT BY HOROWITZ, CIRCULAR DEMARCHE CABLE, AND THREE SPECIAL DEMARCHES DURING CONFERENCE (ONE IN WASHINGTON AND TWO IN CAIRO). EGYPTIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITION (REFTEL) SEEMS SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENT SINCE ON ONE HAND GOE OBJECTS TO LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL AS PRESSURE TACTIC WHICH COUNTRIES CAN ONLY REJECT, YET GOE PROPOSES TO HELP US BY URGING SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MPS SO THAT SOMETHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 6.

4. FURTHER, FAHMY IS MAKING NO NEW PROPOSALS FOR OFFER. ILO ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL WITH HIM PRIOR TO JUNE CONFERENCE. DESPITE ASSURANCES FROM GOE OFFICIALS THAT THEY WOULD WORK WITH US DURING THE CONFERENCE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO OUTSTANDING ISSUES, THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION WAS ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE OPPOSING OUR EFFORTS NOT ONLY ON ARTICLE 17 BUT ON OTHER ISSUES AS WELL.

5. THE STRUCTURE ISSUES WHICH THE EGYPTIANS ARE SUPPORTING AND ON WHICH THEY WISH CONCESSIONS FROM US WOULD RESULT IN BRINGING THE GB UNDER THE CONTROL OF A COALITION OF G-77 AND ARAB EXTREMISTS, TOGETHER WITH COMMUNIST REPS, AS IS THE CASE NOW IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. OUR EXPERIENCE OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS INDICATES THAT IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE GB THAT WE CAN EXERT A MEASURE OF

INFLUENCE. VANCE

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